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In wake of deaths, pain doctor agrees to lifetime restrictions

SEATTLE PAIN CENTERS

Limitations put on what he can prescribe and how much; medical license still suspended

By MIKE BAKER
Seattle Times staff reporter

A prominent Seattle-area pain doctor will face a lifetime of restrictions under a new agreement with health regulators, bringing to an end a sweeping investigation that closely examined the deaths of more than a dozen patients around the state.

Under the agreement with Dr. Frank Li, he will remain suspended from practicing medicine for at least another year and will subsequently face a range of other limitations, including a requirement that he only prescribe controlled substances when patients are in acute pain. And in those cases, Li will only be allowed to prescribe up to seven-day quantities.

Li was the medical director and sole shareholder of Seattle Pain Centers. The company's eight clinics across the state were shuttered after the Washington Medical Commission suspended his license in 2016.

Micah Matthews, deputy executive director at the Washington Medical Commission, said the resolution ends the case before it would go to a full hearing, which could have resulted in a dismissed case or the full revocation of Li's license. Li will have to petition to get his license back

See > LI, A8

Dr. Frank Li's work was under scrutiny since 2013.

A reporter stumbled across an old letter decrying change in Seattle. So he set out to learn if we are ...

A CITY LOSING ITS SOUL

By JAYSON JENKS
Seattle Times staff reporter

The woman across from me, smiling in her Patagonia jacket, knows why I'm here. I'm here to embarrass her.

As a freshman at Seattle University, Meg Matthews sensed something wrong with her city. After reading a series in The Times asking whether the city was losing its soul, Matthews put words to those feelings. "We're no longer a city of people," began her letter to the paper, explaining with teenage indignity that Seattleites cared only about cars and paychecks. "Seattle is losing its soul, and it is gaining one that I don't want to be a part of anymore. I'm leaving this city as soon as I get my degree."

That was in 2000.

In the long corridor between then and now, Matthews got married, moved to England and Chicago, and returned to Seattle in 2013, just in time to buy a house before she could no longer afford one. So much has changed. And yet here I am, asking the same question Matthews and this city have wrestled with for years.

Is Seattle losing its soul?

Matthews, a communications manager at the University of Washington, meets me on a brutally windy day at Caffé Vita on Capitol Hill, a spot she picked because she wrote college papers here. "It was one of the places where I started to create my own identity and feel more connected to the city," she says.

I slide the letter across the table.

"Aw, sweetie," she says, shaking her head.

She wrote it because ... well, she's not sure. The best she can come up with is her favorite club, RKCNDY, had closed a few months earlier. When I found Matthews' letter, I couldn't believe how flat time is in Seattle. The questions that drove Matthews to consider leaving at 18 are the same ones she's considering at 36.

What's the future?

Can she afford this place?

What concerns Matthews now isn't the loss of restaurants or clubs, meaningful as those may be, but the loss of entire classes of people

See > SOUL, A10

COURTNEY PEDROZA / THE SEATTLE TIMES

ALAN BERNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Inye Wokoma's grandfather bought this Central District house in 1947. He sees it as part of his family's story, but lately it has felt like an island.

When she was 18, Meg Matthews wrote that Seattle was "no longer a city of people," and she wanted out. She was gone for years, but then came back — with many of the same questions about the city's essence she had before.

ON THE WEB | **Is Seattle** losing its soul? Comment on this story at *seattletimes.com/*

Dad says slain teen wanted fresh start

POLICE: 2 FATALLY SHOT IN BURIEN GANG FIGHT

Younger victim may have lived in White Center

By SARA JEAN GREEN
Seattle Times staff reporter

After making a little money, Eveona Cortez had planned to move back to Vancouver, Washington, to live with her father, stepmother and siblings.

She had just visited them last week before returning to Seattle, where she spent her childhood before her father moved the family south in 2014. At 16, she dropped out of school and moved in with her maternal grandmother in West Seattle.

"She was just down here visiting me for a couple weeks, and we sent her back up on Saturday," said her father, Ruben Cortez. "She was just supposed to get a couple things in order and come back to Vancouver. She wanted to get out of all the things up there."

Eveona, 19, and a younger girl

See > SHOOTING, A11

Microsoft's latest shake-up puts cloud technology over Windows

By RACHEL LERMAN
Seattle Times technology reporter

Windows' reign as king at Microsoft has come to an end.

Microsoft's latest reorganization, announced Thursday, is a big one — and its main function is to position the company's focus squarely on cloud technology. Windows has been relegated to a spot under the cloud umbrella, as has pretty much everything else in the tech company's portfolio.

The Redmond company is undergoing a massive reorganization of its engineering teams, the most significant restructuring since CEO Satya Nadella took the helm four years ago.

The shifts de-emphasize the company's flagship operating software and put the spotlight on its growing businesses: Office productivity software, artificial intelligence and cloud technology, which allows users to tap into rented computer power and data storage over the internet.

See > MICROSOFT, A14

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